AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all previous versions, and listings, of claims pending in this application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method for specifically inhibiting a host T cell ~~cellular immune~~ response to target cell-specific, cell surface-expressed alloantigens comprising contacting *ex vivo* a target cell expressing said alloantigen with an expression vector encoding all or a functional portion of a CD8 α-chain, wherein said CD8 α-chain is expressed by said target cell and whereby a host T cell ~~immune~~ response against said target cell is specifically inhibited.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) A method for specifically inhibiting a T cell response ~~cellular immune responses~~ to donor cell surface-expressed alloantigens in a recipient, comprising

(a) contacting *ex vivo* donor allograft cells expressing said donor alloantigens with an expression vector encoding all or a functional portion of a CD8 α-chain prior to or contemporaneous with transplantation of said allograft cells into said recipient, such that said CD8 α-chain is expressed on the surface of said donor allograft cells;

(b) transplanting said donor allograft cells into said recipient, wherein said cell surface expression of said CD8 α-chain by said allograft cells specifically inhibits said T cell ~~cellular immune~~ response to said donor alloantigens.

6. (Currently amended) A method for extending the survival of an allograft in a recipient, comprising

(a) contacting *ex vivo* cells of said allograft with an expression vector encoding all or a functional portion of a CD8 α-chain prior to or contemporaneous with transplantation of said allograft into said recipient such that said CD8 α-chain is expressed on the cell surface of said allograft cells,

(b) transplanting said allograft into said recipient, wherein said cell surface expression of said CD8 α-chain extends the survival time of said allograft.

7-13 (Canceled)

14. (Previously presented) The method according to any one of Claims 1, 5, and 6, wherein said CD8 α-chain is a human CD8 α-chain.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to any one of Claims 1, 5, 6, and 14, wherein said CD8 α-chain consists essentially of a CD8 α-chain extracellular domain and a transmembrane domain.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to any one of Claims 1, 5, 6, and 14-15, wherein said CD8 α-chain consists essentially of a CD8 α-chain Ig-like domain and a transmembrane domain.

17. (Previously presented) The method according to Claim 15 or 16, wherein said transmembrane domain is a CD8 α-chain transmembrane domain.

18. (Withdrawn) An improved transplant allograft comprising allograft cells modified to express a CD8 polypeptide comprising the CD8 α-chain, wherein said allograft is capable of effectively and specifically inhibiting a recipient immune response to alloantigens.

19. (Withdrawn) The improved transplant allograft of Claim 18, wherein modification of said allograft cells is achieved using viral-mediated delivery of a nucleic acid encoding said CD8 polypeptide.

20. (Withdrawn) The improved transplant allograft according to Claims 18 or 19, wherein said CD8 polypeptide is a human CD8 polypeptide.

21. (Withdrawn) An improved organ preservation solution comprising a vector comprising a nucleic acid encoding a CD8 polypeptide, said CD8 polypeptide comprising a CD8 α-chain.

22. (Withdrawn) The improved organ preservation solution according to Claim 21, wherein said CD8 polypeptide is a human CD8 polypeptide.

23. (Withdrawn) The improved organ preservation solution according to Claim 21 or 22, wherein said CD8 polypeptide consists essentially of the extracellular domain of the CD8 α-chain and a transmembrane domain.

24. (Withdrawn) The improved organ preservation solution according to any one of Claims 21 to 23, wherein said transmembrane domain is the CD8 α-chain transmembrane domain.

25. (Withdrawn) The improved organ preservation solution according to Claim 21, wherein said nucleic acid encoding said CD8 polypeptide comprises the sequence set forth in (SEQ ID NOS:27-28).

26. (Withdrawn) The improved organ preservation solution according to Claim 21, wherein said CD8 polypeptide consists essentially of the sequence as set forth in (SEQ ID NOS:27-28).

27-32 (Canceled)

33. (New) A method for specifically inhibiting a host T cell response to target cell-specific, cell surface-expressed alloantigens comprising contacting a target cell expressing said alloantigen with an expression vector encoding all or a functional portion of a CD8 α-chain, wherein said contacting comprises intravascular injection of said expression vector proximate to said target cell, wherein said CD8 α-chain is expressed by said target cell, and whereby said host T cell response against said target cell is specifically inhibited.

34. (New) A method for specifically inhibiting a T cell response to donor cell surface-expressed alloantigens in a recipient, comprising

(a) contacting donor allograft cells expressing said donor alloantigens with an expression vector encoding all or a functional portion of a CD8 α-chain prior to or contemporaneous with transplantation of said allograft cells into said recipient, such that said CD8 α-chain is expressed on the surface of said donor allograft cells, wherein said contacting

comprises intravascular injection of said expression vector proximate to said donor allograft cells;

(b) transplanting said donor allograft cells into said recipient, wherein said cell surface expression of said CD8 α-chain by said allograft cells specifically inhibits said T cell response to said donor alloantigens.

35. (New) A method for extending the survival of an allograft in a recipient, comprising

(a) contacting cells of said allograft with an expression vector encoding all or a functional portion of a CD8 α-chain prior to or contemporaneous with transplantation of said allograft into said recipient such that said CD8 α-chain is expressed on the cell surface of said allograft cells, wherein said contacting comprises intravascular injection of said expression vector proximate to said allograft;

(b) transplanting said allograft into said recipient, wherein said cell surface expression of said CD8 α-chain extends the survival time of said allograft.

36. (New) The method according to any one of Claims 33-35, wherein said CD8 α-chain is a human CD8 α-chain.

37. (New) The method according to any one of Claims 33-36, wherein said CD8 α-chain consists essentially of a CD8 α-chain extracellular domain and a transmembrane domain.

38. (New) The method according to any one of Claims 33-37, wherein said CD8 α-chain consists essentially of a CD8 α-chain Ig-like domain and a transmembrane domain.

39. (New) The method according to Claim 37 or 38, wherein said transmembrane domain is a CD8 α-chain transmembrane domain.